

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL/AF/W:RMCGUIRE:SC

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (SECTO 19019)

AF:CJAMES

IO:SWLEWIS

EA:WGLEYSTEEN (KOREA ONLY)

S/S: RGAMBLE

S:STAFF - DPASSAGE

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O R 300034Z JUL 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188797

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UNGA,US,SL

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE  
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE  
FROM THE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT SIAKA STEVENS. IT IS  
NOT REPEAT NOT PLANNED TO SEND SIGNED ORIGINALS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: GOVERNOR SCRANTON  
HAS INFORMED ME OF THE WARM AND USEFUL TALKS HE HAD  
WITH ACTING PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA, ACTING VICE PRESIDENT  
C.A. KAMARA-TAYLOR, AND FOREIGN MINISTER F.M. MINAH  
DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE. I CONSIDER  
HIS TRIP AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE DEVELOPING  
RELATIONSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES WITH SIERRA LEONE  
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AND THE NATIONS OF AFRICA, AND WELCOME THE SERIOUS

AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH HE HAD WITH  
MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.

GOVERNOR SCRANTON DISCUSSED SEVERAL ISSUES OF  
IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO  
COME UP IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE  
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF.

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US ARE THE QUESTIONS OF  
PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE  
WHAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID BY PERSONALLY STATING THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS.

ON PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE  
ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.  
THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION  
AND COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952 AND REAFFIRMED THAT  
CHOICE IN A 1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS  
EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF  
PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF  
NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN 1953. WE ASSURED  
THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME THAT, IF THE  
PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION  
IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE,  
THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT  
INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS  
BY ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ASSEMBLY WOULD BE  
AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF  
THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES  
CAME INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON-SELF-GOVERNING  
TERRITORIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY, AND EACH  
HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHED TO  
FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES CHOSE INDEPENDENCE IN 1947;  
HAWAII CHOSE STATEHOOD; AND PUERTO RICO CHOSE A SPECIAL  
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WHICH  
CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF  
PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THE UNITED STATES, ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS  
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RELATIONSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS CAN ONLY BE  
OFFENSIVE TO US AND TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO.  
PRESIDENT FORD MADE THIS POINT WITH PARTICULAR  
EMPHASIS IN JUNE WHEN HE VISITED PUERTO RICO AND  
SAID THAT THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERVENE  
IN OUR FREELY DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT  
SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERVENTION IN THE  
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

I AM SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER.

IN VIEW OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, YOU ARE IN A STRONG POSITION TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION OF THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION. I HOPE WE WILL HAVE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION AGAIN IN THIS REGARD. WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE MOST UN MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN ISSUE BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL CONTROVERSY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA. WE APPRECIATE SIERRA LEONE'S PAST UNDERSTANDING OF THIS FACT. HOWEVER, IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE UN MEMBERSHIP ACCEDE TO PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION--SUCH AS ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY, OR ALTERING THE MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAS PRESERVED PEACE FOR 23 YEARS--IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL AGAIN BE FACED WITH A CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE STATESMEN WOULD DO A SERVICE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA BY ADVOCATING A CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THE PARTIES AGREED IN 1972.

ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR SAMUELS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TEXT OF MY PROPOSAL.

SINCE THERE IS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ON THE QUESTIONS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER ISSUE AT COMING MEETINGS; IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER AND IN THE SECOND BY SUPPORTING A POSITION ENUNCIATING GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH CAN PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION OF THE KOREAN PARTIES. RESPECTFULLY, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED, PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GOSL FROM RELEASE IF

ISSUE IS RAISED.

4. YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESIDENT'S PUERTO RICO SPEECH  
(STATE 159509) AVAILABLE IN EVENT THERE IS INTEREST  
IN SOURCE OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT TO WHICH MESSAGE  
REFERS.

KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, CAT-C, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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